

**TOP SECRET**

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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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## II. ASIA-AFRICA

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Iraq: Prime Minister Qasim has predicted another "new big revolution" for Iraq in April. His forecasts of "revolutions" in March turned out to be the Soviet-Iraqi economic accord and Iraq's withdrawal from the Baghdad Pact. The next "revolution" could involve a major change in the economic development program or in constitutional arrangements. It might also include some form of nationalization of the oil industry. [Meanwhile, London has decided to withdraw all its forces--some 350 men--from Habanniya airfield in Iraq.] 25X1

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North Africa: The current visit of several top Tunisian officials to Rabat may be an effort to align Moroccan and Tunisian views on the next step regarding Algeria and military base questions. A prominent Algerian nationalist predicts that the Tunisians, with the tacit agreement of the Algerian rebel government, will try to incorporate a North African base settlement in a package offer which would associate an independent North African federation with the French Community. [Should the three parties agree to such a package deal, the United States would be subject to increasing pressure to become directly involved in the Algerian problem.] 25X1

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\*Ethiopia-USSR: Emperor Haile Selassie will visit the USSR "shortly" in response to an invitation extended and accepted two years ago. The move is an expression of Ethiopia's overt posture of nonalignment. The Ethiopian foreign minister has explained privately that the Emperor feels he cannot indefinitely avoid the trip, for which Moscow has repeatedly asked him to set a date. 25X1

## III. THE WEST

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Portugal: [Defense Minister Moniz has told the American naval attaché that he may have to advise Premier Salazar to retire. Moniz said he would take over the government. Although] 25X1

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DAILY BRIEF

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25X1 [the defense minister said that he realized such conversation could be considered treasonable, he was confident of the full backing of the military high command. Moniz' ambitions could be thwarted by the activities of the former defense minister, Colonel Santos Costa, who is a candidate to succeed Salazar and who retains considerable backing among the junior officers. 25X1

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DAILY BRIEF

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## II. ASIA-AFRICA

### Meeting of Tunisian and Moroccan Officials

Several top Tunisian leaders, including the foreign minister and the influential director of the political bureau of the Neo-Destour party, are visiting the Moroccan capital ostensibly to sign a series of bilateral conventions negotiated since last June. The American ambassador in Tunis, however, believes that the Tunisians will use the occasion to try to align the views of the two states on the next steps regarding both the Algerian and the foreign base questions with an eye to any meeting this spring between President de Gaulle and King Mohamed V of Morocco [or Tunisia's President Bourguiba.] Bourguiba has already publicly linked the future of the French base at Bizerte with settlement of the Algerian problem by mid-June, and he reportedly is disappointed that Rabat has not done the same with the American, French, and Spanish bases in Morocco.

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The "minister of information" of the Algerian provisional government predicts that the Tunisians, apparently with the tacit blessing of the Algerians, will try to present a package offer to France. This would incorporate a North African base settlement, [an agreement for the protection of the French minority,] and the association of an independent North African federation--including an independent Algeria--with the French Community.

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[The ambassador feels that if Morocco agrees to this strategy, there would probably be increased pressure on the United States regarding base rights. In addition, the United States would become more directly involved in the settlement of the Algerian problem.]

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### III. THE WEST

#### Portuguese Defense Minister Feels He May Soon Have To Take Over Government

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[Portugal's defense minister, General Botelho Moniz, on 26 March told the American naval attaché he felt he would be obliged "within the next 12 months or probably sooner" to advise Premier Salazar to retire. Moniz said he had the power to name Salazar's successor and that there was no one except himself strong enough to hold the country together. The defense minister claimed to have complete support from the military high command for such action. He added, however, that the move might not be necessary at all, since Salazar's poor health may cause his death or voluntary retirement soon.]

[Moniz regards former Defense Minister Colonel Santos Costa as the only obstacle in his way. He has removed from important posts over 200 key military officers loyal to the colonel but has not succeeded in persuading Salazar to denounce Santos Costa's intrigues for a comeback. Moniz is prepared to advance the date of his own take-over if he thinks an increasing number of junior officers are transferring their loyalty to Santos Costa in the belief he is the stronger man.]

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